



**TONY  
PERSICILLI**

## Girls just as worthy of inclusion

TRENTON — Was the guy who wrote the column on Sunday about the Trenton High Hall of Fame guilty of sexism?

Maybe.

Was it intentional?

Definitely not (so stop calling).

But interscholastic sports for girls weren't a big deal at THS until the late 1970's or early 1980's.

That's why they had Sports Nite, to give the girls an opportunity to strut their stuff. So maybe some of the Red Team captains (like Val Singletary) and Black Team captains (like Virginia "Bunny" Moses) should be included.

There obviously are many girls who are just as deserving as the boys to be included in the initial class of inductees. Unfortunately some of them don't meet the criteria of having been out of THS for 10 years or more, but there are several notable candidates.

For instance (and, yes, I realize I'm probably still overlooking some obvious nominees but I'm human).

- Gail Peters, who went from Trenton High to earn a berth on the 1952 United States Olympic swimming team in Helsinki.
- Wendy (now Wenda) Vereen, who left THS and ran her way onto the 1988 United States Olympic team.
- Tonya Grant, who had an outstanding collegiate basketball career at St. Peter's, played professionally in Europe and should be in one of the two women's professional leagues in this country.
- Dale Hodges, All-State basketball player in high school who went on to earn All-American honors while at St. Joseph's University.

They are almost certain to be (or should be) among the first members when the THS Hall of Fame holds its initial induction ceremony on Friday, Oct. 16 from 7-10 p.m. in the school auditorium.

And it's a good bet a few of them will be on hand for the Homecoming football game against West Windsor-Plainsboro the next day.

It is, however, the males who have elicited the biggest response, and people have been very quick to point out many of the outstanding athletes who were (unintentionally) left out of the Sunday column.

RICHARD "DICK" Hough was mentioned by several people, including Richard Switlik, who called Hough "one of the finest athletes ever" at THS.

He may be right.

Hough, a member of the class of-1935, set national and world scholastic records in the individual breaststroke and was a member of the THS medley relay team (along with Ed Mikovsky and Bill Stanley), which set a world record at 1:26.

After THS, Hough went on to Princeton, where he again set the standard in the breaststroke.

Mike Kearns, who should be on the list himself, called colleague Harvey Yavener to put in a plug for his father Ted Kearns, a three-sport star, as well as for Mário Rossi and Frank "Bones" Frascella.

Olympians?

Trenton High has more than any other high school in New Jersey.

IN ADDITION to Peters, Vereen and Judge Albert Cooper (the first Trenton native to make a U.S. Olympic team — 1928, soccer), there were Peter Pietras, George "Shorty" Nemchek and Jules Chmielewski, all of whom were on the 1936 soccer team that played in Berlin, and Sammy Goss, who was a lightweight on the 1968 boxing team in Mexico City.

Robert "Bo" Belinsky's name also was tossed around.

Belinsky, who is better remembered (by some) for his marriage to Maime Van Doren, had an 8-year Major League career which was highlighted by the no-hitter he threw against the Baltimore Orioles in 1962 but, according to sources, didn't play baseball while at THS.

The "deadline" for nominees has passed but, if you can make a call or fax VERY soon, you may still have time.

The numbers to call are (609) 989-0285 or 989-2866.

The numbers to fax are (609) 989-2953 or 695-2255.

Hey, you can even call me at (609) 989-5721 or fax me at 989-8368.

*Tony Persichilli is a Times staff writer.*

# \$35,000 grant aids youth programs

By TOM HESTER Jr.  
Staff Writer

**TRENTON** — Youth programs throughout the city received a boost yesterday as Mayor Douglas H. Palmer distributed \$35,000 in grants to pay for new education, health, employment and recreation programs.

"This whole ceremony — all of this — just fills me with joy," said Lyda Lawrence of the Latina Women's Council, which received \$1,500 from the mayor during a City Hall event.

Palmer distributed the grants to 22 organizations. The grants were paid through donations from PSE&G, First Union, Fleet Bank, Trenton First, Trigen Energy Co. and Joseph Jingo and Sons contractors.

"It's a small amount of money, but they can do big things," Palmer said of the grants, which ranged from \$500 to \$2,165.

The grants will be used to pay for activities such as educational trips, computer training, youth conferences, bilingual employment programs and peer leadership training.

The Latina Women's Council plans to use its grant to pay for a young women's empowerment program, which Lawrence said will focus on racism against Latinos and how young women can make healthy choices.

The Union Industrial Home received a \$1,965 grant that will pay for a summer camp for teenage mothers and their children.

The mayor solicited the corporate donations after promising the Save Our Children Coalition earlier this year that he would raise money to help pay for addi-

tional youth programs.

The SOCC, a coalition of community organizations, had contended that the city offered programs of no interest to youth.

The city's Department of Health and Human Services received 48 proposals, which were reviewed by a special committee of SOCC and Trenton Youth Services Commission members.

Also receiving grants were Alcance/Reachout, \$1,650 for peer leadership training; Anchor House, \$2,000 for trips and activities; Boy Scouts of America Cub Scout Pack 3, \$1,700 for a life learning center; Chain Breakers, \$2,000 for an African-American history program; Catholic Youth Organization, \$2,000 for a computer/technology upgrade; Dunn Middle School, \$1,800 for dance troupe outfits; and the East Trenton Center, \$1,930 for a learning trip.

Also, Imani Church, \$2,000 for an educational trip; MECHA, \$2,165 for bilingual employment and skills program; Passage Theatre, \$1,000 for its playwriting and theater program; and the Pink Panthers Drill Team, \$1,274 for its program.

Trenton Central High School received several grants totaling about \$8,000 for educational trips, a post-prom party, college track meet trips, Sports Nite '99 and "real babies virtual education."

The West Ward Community Partnership received \$2,000 for a Teen Summit forum, the Trenton Area YMCA received \$500 for a dance party and YWCA of Trenton received \$1,800 for a youth lifestyles program.

The Pink Panthers Drill Team performed during the City Hall ceremonies.

Trenton Times, December 11, 1998

# Trenton Central nominate top students to team

**Editor's note:** Saturdays throughout the 1998-99 school year, *The Times* publishes student profiles of area high school seniors who have been nominated to *The Times' All-Star Academic Team* by their teachers or counselors for excellence in one or more of the seven disciplines — math, science, history/social studies, the arts, English, foreign language, and industrial arts/technology.

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## Industrial arts

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Faith Murray, an outstanding cosmetology student for three consecutive years, will compete in the State-Level Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competitions in leadership skills.

Murray has averaged a 90 or better in cosmetology and her applied science classes. She has been a great influence and inspiration to her classmates and is well-liked by faculty members.



Ranked ninth in her class, Murray is taking biology and physics, Advanced Placement English and Applied Science in addition to her cosmetology subjects to prepare for premedical courses in college.

Murray is involved in many extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Vocational-Industrial Clubs of America; captain of the TCHS basketball team; a member of the TCHS track team and a member of All-CVC track team; captain of the TCHS soccer team; a member of the Interact Club; secretary of the National Honor Society; a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters at TCHS; and Sports Nite Red Team overall captain.

She has also done volunteer work with Capital Health Systems of Trenton and the Salvation Army.

*Trenton Times*, March 27, 1999

# New format, budget woes kill popular Sports Night

By LISA CORYELL  
Staff Writer

**TRENTON** — Sports Night, the wildly popular spring celebration at Trenton Central High School, has died a quiet death, a victim of the school's new reorganization plan and perennial budget constrictions.

Juniors and seniors this year will not take part in the traditional competition that pits members of the Red and Black teams in athletic games and dance routines.

"Everyone is really upset," said Edward Days, a junior. "It was a big part of school, especially for the seniors. Being in Sports Night was a big memory for them."

The event, which began in 1936 as an athletic outlet for female students, was discontinued in 1971 when sports teams for girls became more prevalent. The event was resurrected in 1994 when students once again began taking part in the time-honored tradition that fostered school spirit and marked the end of the academic year.

The three-night event drew some 900 spectators nightly.

Administrators said several factors contributed to its cancellation.

One was the reorganization into Small Learning Communities this year.

Under the new program students are now grouped in separate academic houses with sophomores, juniors and seniors participating in gym classes with members of their own community. In the past most juniors and seniors had gym class together and they spent the year practicing for Sports Night.

"**THE JUNIORS** and seniors don't have a time when they can all practice," said Harold Beatty, academic director of the high school. "They go to gym class with their own communities."

"The school's in a new structure right now and that makes it difficult to organize (Sports Night)," said

Edna Margolin, vice principal. "Another reason is that the budgeting was a problem."

Sports Night costs about \$30,000 a year to stage and funding has been a big problem for years, according to Beatty.

Beatty said money for the event was allocated in the district's 1994 budget but the event has not been specifically funded since then.

"Every year they tell us to plan it and they'll find the money somehow and every year the money comes through," Beatty said. "But this year we haven't done any of the planning."

Beatty said one of the event's key organizers, teacher Lois Enourata, retired last year.

"She choreographed most of the dances," Beatty said. "She really was the event."

Beatty said academics is a big focus this year but that each small learning community is looking for ways to foster school spirit.

The students are not consoled by that thought.

"I've been looking forward to Sports Night since I was in ninth grade, and now that it's my turn to do it they cancel it," said Karla Marin, a junior. "You see the juniors and seniors doing it and it's something you really look forward to."

**SENIOR** Francisca Santiago said Sports Night was a time for students to shed a positive light on Trenton High.

"This was the way we could prove to the community that we aren't what everyone thinks that we are," Santiago said.

The cancellation also contributes to a sense of loss among Trenton High's upperclassmen.

"They changed everything our last year here," she said. "First, they put us all in Small Learning Communities, and now they cancel Sports Night. I don't like everything changing so quickly. It's like the tradition of Trenton High isn't the same anymore."